

MINUTES OF THE FORTY-FIRST MEETING OF SUBCOMMITTEE
ON EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

14 January 1955

Present

Members: John Lacey, State
Harold J. Gordon, Army
Lt. Cdr. G. B. McKinney, Navy
Mai. Howard G. Neumann, Air Force

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Consultants: Capt. Charles Colville, Jr., Air Force

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1. The minutes of the 40th meeting were approved with the following amendment: Paragraph 2, under "South Korea" reads "biographic coverage;" this should be "governmental personnel changes."

2. The Annual Report of the Subcommittee

The draft annual report after some discussion was approved by Army, Navy, Air, NSA and CIA.

Mr. Lacey gave tentative approval for State Department subject to a full return of reactions from all Department consumers and made the following observations:

The report is a broad statement of work undertaken by the Subcommittee. The Appendix is the real evidence of accomplishment but he would like to have seen a pinpointing of Subcommittee accomplishments more precisely than is evident from the Appendix. One desirable feature of this would be perhaps a total of the actual number of reports produced under the program. Another would be to show that after five years of interagency bickering all have finally met on common ground and are making progress for mutual benefits. Foreign Documents Division (FDD) is in fact becoming a service of common concern. Mr. Lacey thought it would have also been desirable to have weighed accomplishments against short-comings. Some things have been sidestepped, such as the question of priority of intelligence coverage. He stated that he was not sure that the Subcommittee has assessed the actual priorities of language coverage. He felt that the needs of the consumers had not been as carefully weighed as could have been done but added that the program reviews in 1955 might show these points more precisely. Lastly, Mr. Lacey believed that the translation problem should have been considered in relationship to the other points.

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[] stated that although it would not be essential to the annual report it would be desirable to have a list of actual summary numbers and the dates of publications covered by them. The Chairman stated that he felt such a list could be drawn up.

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[] also stated that it should be made clear that the USSR program had been established in 1953 and while not referred to in the 1954 statement would be reviewed in 1955.

The Chairman stated that the report will clarify the completion of the USSR report in the previous year and a statement of actual number of reports will be added.

Mr. Lacey proposed that the Subcommittee consider an agenda of three goals for 1955:

- a. Review of established report programs.
- b. Examination and restatement of the objectives and mission of the Subcommittee.
- c. Examine the problem of translation.

Mr. Lacey's proposal was adopted. Navy, CIA, Air, NSA and Army concurred.

Mr. Gordon suggested that the subject of translation be considered later in the year so that the members could study the value of the reporting programs and what effect they might have in satisfying or reducing translation needs.

3. Scientific and Technical Program

The Chairman distributed to each member an FDD proposal for a new scientific and technical program, and stated the reasons for this proposal as follows:

The most recent detailed survey of requirements for abstracting shows a desire for cover-to-cover abstracting of 124 periodicals. Present facilities have been having great difficulties abstracting 54. Hence, 124 is not feasible for current facilities in the intelligence community. Therefore, FDD has reviewed all the needs and the manpower available to it. From such a review it is evident that priorities must be established, since there is available barely one-third of the manpower necessary to meet requirements. As the publications picture is constantly fluctuating - some titles being cut off from time to time; new titles being added; and some issues of many titles not received - selection by title is not the most efficient method for intelligence to keep informed of all important material. We came to the conclusion then that the problem must be attacked by subject. Accordingly, we propose a new program in three parts. The first part would encompass a monthly reporting on new information in specified subject fields only. The specific subjects listed have been based on priority National Intelligence Objectives, deficiencies noted in the national intelligence program, specific

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requirements of the agencies, detailed briefings on working-level liaison and potential of periodic literature to yield such information. Such information would be reported in brief or in longer summary form depending on detailed briefings by consumer offices. Consumer offices could only stand to gain by such a treatment. Nothing would be lost in the particular subject field. On the other hand where we knew detailed treatment of the article would be requested anyway time would be saved through more detailed presentation initially. Specific subjects listed are subject to modification by the Subcommittee. The second part would be a bimonthly coverage of information on scientific institutions and personalities in the USSR. This has been recognized as a prime deficiency in NIE post-mortems. The third part would be a continuation of the present publication of science news items on the Orbit.

After some discussion of this program, it was agreed to carry over discussion of the scientific program to the next meeting.

Copies of the detailed survey of requirements for abstracting by agency were distributed as well as a survey of progress to date by ATIC, AID and FDD in the current abstracting program.

4. The following first issues of program reports were distributed to the members:

Summary No. 272 -- Report on Overseas Chinese Activities in Southeast Asia (1)

Summary No. 286 -- Monthly Information Report on Greece, Turkey, and Iran (1)

Summary No. 288 -- Political, Economic, and Sociological Report on Thailand (1)

Summary No. 290 -- Monthly Information Report on Arab States (1)

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Summary No. 300 -- Monthly Information Report on Africa (1)

Summary No. 305 -- Monthly Information Report on India, Pakistan and Afghanistan (1)

Summary No. 310 -- Annual Report on Crime in the USSR (1)

Summary No. 323 -- Semiannual Report on USSR Republic Plan Fulfillment (1)

Summary No. 329 -- Monthly Information Report on Western Europe (1)

OO-W-31127 -- Semimonthly Information Report on Latin America (1)

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5. The meeting adjourned at 1530 hours. The next meeting will be held on Friday, 28 January 1955, in Room 2125 M Building at 1400 hours. Agenda will be:

- a. Continuation of scientific and technical program
- b. "Selected Briefs from the International Press"

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